

Graduating with the Standard Diploma

(Ninth graders in 2003-04 & beyond)



For the **Standard Diploma**, a student must earn at least **22 standard units of credit** (plus any required locally), which are based on coursework, and **six verified units of credit**, which are earned by passing the course and its related Standards of Learning test or approved substitute test.

Students who entered the ninth grade for the first time in school years 2003-04 and beyond are required to earn **TWO verified units of credit in ENGLISH** (one each in reading and writing), **ONE verified unit of credit in Mathematics**, **ONE verified unit of credit in Science**, **ONE verified unit of credit in History/Social Science**, and **ONE in the subject of the STUDENT'S OWN CHOICE**, as follows:

English (two verified units of credit):

The two verified units of credit may be earned by passing the high school Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in English/Reading and English/Writing. As with all high school SOL tests, these may be retaken if the student does not pass on the first or subsequent attempt.

An acceptable score on approved substitute tests including, among others, the ACT, WorkKeys: Writing, SAT II English, Advanced Placement (AP) English tests, or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), also may earn verified units of credit in English.

Mathematics, Science, and History/Social Science (3 verified units of credit):

- **MATHEMATICS:** A verified unit of credit may be earned by passing ANY **one** of the three high school SOL mathematics tests (Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry).
- **SCIENCE:** A verified unit of credit may be earned by passing ANY **one** of the three high school SOL science tests (Earth Science, Biology, or Chemistry).
- **HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE:** A verified unit of credit may be earned by passing ANY **one** of the four high school history/social science SOL tests (U.S. History, World History I, World History II, or World Geography).

These verified units of credit also may be earned by an acceptable score on any of the approved substitute tests, including, among others, ACT, Advanced Placement (AP), College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), or SAT II. *

Student's Choice (1 verified unit of credit)

This verified unit of credit may be earned by passing any SOL test that is not already satisfying a required verified unit of credit or by passing tests in computer science, technology, or other areas as prescribed by the Board.

Additionally, the Board of Education has approved a large number of state licensing exams in career/technical fields, as well as national industry certification exams, which counts toward verified units of credit. *

**** Talk to your guidance counselor for a complete list of all approved substitute exams that may be used to earn verified units of credit. Or go to www.pen.k12.va.us and click of on "Project Graduation."***